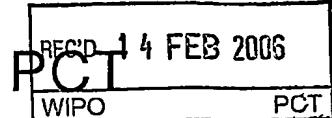


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

see form PCT/ISA/220		Date of mailing (day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)
Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/EP2005/054495	International filing date (day/month/year) 09.09.2005	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H04M1/02, H05K5/03, H05K5/00		
Applicant ROBERT BOSCH GMBH		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of Invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the International application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Bianchi, D Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8808
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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - in written format
 - in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - contained in the international application as filed.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/054495

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	3-5, 8
	No: Claims	1, 2, 6, 7, 9-11
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-11
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Additional observations

- 1 The expression "**discussion unit**" used in the claims does not have a well-recognized meaning and leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject matter of the claim unclear (Article 6 PCT). Such expression should therefore be clarified using terms taken from the description, which are appropriate to define the claimed subject matter.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) (N, IS, IA)

- 2 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE 29 02 052 A1 (SIEMENS AG; SIEMENS AG, 1000 BERLIN UND 8000 MUENCHEN, DE) 24 July 1980 (1980-07-24)
D2: US-A-3 955 054 (HEMMING ET AL) 4 May 1976 (1976-05-04)
D3: WO 02/05610 A (EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY) 17 January 2002 (2002-01-17)

- 3 The subject matter of **independent claim 1** is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

In accordance with the technical features of claim 1, document D1 discloses:

A unit (see page 11, line 30, "Fernsprechgeräten", figure 1 and claim 1, "Elektrisches Gerät, insbesondere Fernsprechgerät") **for use in a conference system**(a telephone call between two or more participants is considered as a conference) , **wherein the unit is adapted to be connected to at least one second unit** (although not explicitly disclosed by D1, the telephone set described therein is adapted to be connected to a second telephone set), **wherein the unit comprises an essentially closed casing** (see page 32 to 33, "Gehäuseoberteil 3 und -unterteil 4" and figure 1, "3" and "4") **and at least one exchangeable portion** (see page 12, line 9, "Abdeckplatte" and figures, "9"), **wherein the at least one exchangeable portion is removably mounted to the casing** (see page 12, lines 32 to 36, "Eine Abdeckplatte kann derartige Rastarme in grosser Zahl aufweisen und ist damit so befestigbar, dass sie nur von der

Gehäuseinnenseite her aus dieser Verbindung gelöst werden kann").

Therefore D1 discloses all the features of claim 1, which as a consequence does not satisfy the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that the disclosure of documents D2 and D3 is prejudicial to the novelty of claim 1 as well.

- 4 In view of the disclosure of D1 (see the passages cited for claim 1), the features of **independent claim 9** are not new (Article 33(2) PCT) as well.
- 5 The dependent claims do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty (claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9 to 11) and inventive step (claims 3 to 5 and 8), see documents D1 to D4 and the corresponding passages cited in the International Search Report.
- 6 The subject matter of claims 1 to 11 is however industrially applicable (Article 33(4) PCT).